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Philip E. LaMoreaux

In Memoriam by J. Mark Tanner



Philip E. LaMoreaux, geologist and business man, died at home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on June 23, 2008 after a long battle with heart disease. LaMoreaux, 88, enjoyed a 65-year career in the geosciences as a positive influence on several generations and his personal character was known by many. LaMoreaux was a Certified Professional Geologist with the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), and a registered geologist in 14 states. He was a supporter of professional certification and licensing of professional geologists as a way to enhance the profession and stimulate excellence. He contributed much to the initial licensing laws and regulations for Alabama.

After earning his bachelors degree in 1943 from Denison University and M.S., in Geology, from the University of Alabama in 1949, LaMoreaux's career began in 1943 with his appointment to Tuscaloosa with the U.S. Geological

Survey (USGS) as a Geologist, then as District Geologist in charge of the USGS District Ground Water Office in Alabama. He later served as the Chief of the Ground Water Branch of the USGS and as Division Hydrologist in charge of Water Resources Programs in a 14-state area of the Midwest until 1961. He was then appointed as state geologist for Alabama and director of the Oil and Gas Board where he served from 1961 to 1976. In 1972, LaMoreaux received an Honorary Doctorate of Sciences from Denison University.

LaMoreaux occupied a central role in the development of hydrogeology and environmental geology, one of the most dynamic and sought-after disciplines in geology in the world. During his tenure as the Alabama State Geologist and Oil and Gas Supervisor, the Alabama Geological Survey sponsored the first major national professional meeting on karst hydrogeology—the 12th Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH). LaMoreaux also served as President of the IAH. In 1970 he was the primary editor of *Hydrology of Limestone Terranes—Annotated Bibliography of Carbonate Rocks* for the Alabama Geological Survey. Publications related to karst hydrogeology would be the focus of his 32-year career with his consulting firm for which he served as senior hydrogeologist and addressed numerous topics in hydrology and hydrogeology of karst; environmental planning for karst areas; remote sensing techniques for the detection of karst; and catastrophic subsidence. From 1945 to 1983, he served as adjunct professor in

Alabama Licensed Geologists by Category of Practice

By J. Mark Tanner

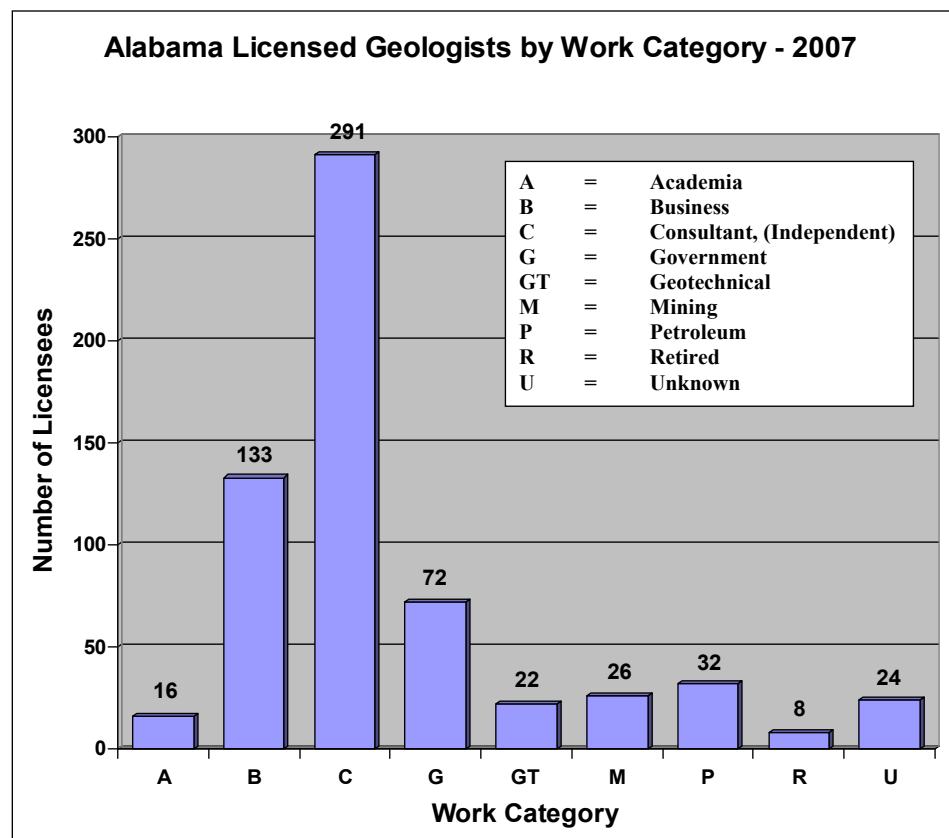
This article is the final of a three-part series addressing various trends in licensing of geologists in Alabama. The articles were prepared based on analysis of information compiled and maintained by the Board. The initial article was published in the Winter 2007 edition (Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 4) of the Alabama Geologist and addressed trends in licensing of geologists in Alabama. That article documented an initial three year increase in the number of licensees subsequent to the initial call for applications in 1996, followed by a six year decline from 1999 to 2005, and a nearly level trend for the last three years, with expectations for a slight increase in the future. An article in the previous issue of The Alabama Geologist (Spring 2008, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 4) titled "Alabama Geologists by State of Residence", provided an overview of the number of licensees residing in-state versus out-of-state for two years of record. The most telling aspect of the Board's analysis of the data for state of residence is that the total number of resident Alabama licensees has decreased slightly through the years evaluated by approximately 7%, whereas the number of resident out-of-state licensees has markedly decreased by 49% during the same 11-year period. Also of note is that while "other" states accounted for a significant number of licensees in 1999 (31%), they currently only account for 15% of the total.

This article, addresses the various categories of professional practice by Alabama licensed geologists. Since 1999, licensees have submitted renewal applications in order to maintain their licenses. Included in the information required by

the Board on the renewal form is information on the category of practice. Seven categories of practice are listed on the renewal application where the licensee is requested to provide a check to indicate which category most appropriately applies to him or her. The categories are: Academia, Business, Consultant (Independent), Geotechnical, Government, Mining, and Petroleum. There is also an eighth category of "Retired" that is reserved for those who are no longer in practice but who wish to maintain a license. For this evaluation, a ninth category of "Unknown" is included. This category represents the group of licensees that did not provide information on the category of practice on their renewal application.

The short list of categories

provided in the renewal form is by no means considered encompassing of all categories of practice, but rather was the initial Board's attempt to capture the bulk of practice categories short of generating an extensive list. Obviously, it is left to the interpretation of each licensee to choose the category which best fits his or her practice. Some licensees may consider that their practice could fit in more than one category. An example would be a geologist that has training and experience in petroleum and works for the Geological Survey of Alabama's Oil and Gas Board. That geologist might consider the categories of "Petroleum" and "Government". Another example would be a licensee that is employed by a mining company and therefore the categories



of “Business” and “Mining” may be considered applicable. As a result, the analysis presented in this article cannot be considered precise, but rather a reasonably representation based on the quality of the data.

The data maintained by the

Board for 2007 is illustrated graphically above by category of practice. Surprisingly, two categories constitute almost three quarters of all licensees. The data indicate that geologists practicing as Independent Consultants represent

almost half (47%) of the total number of licensees. The second largest category is that of Business, representing 21% of the total. All remaining categories, excluding the categories of Retired and Unknown, account for 28% of the total.

Board Pursues Comity Agreements with Surrounding States

By Marsha Andrews

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists is evaluating possible reciprocity or comity agreements with surrounding states. Currently, the only such agreement are with Mississippi and Texas. The Mississippi agreement states that duly licensed geologists in the other state will be granted an Alabama license by comity provided the applicant is in good standing and meets all requirements for continued licensure in the original licensing state. The Board approved a similar Statement of Understanding of Reciprocity/Comity with Texas at the August 2008 meeting. This agreement was approved by the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists at their September 5, 2008 meeting. The agreements with Mississippi and Texas will be added to an upcoming new section of the Board's website which will contain information about licensure with surrounding states.

The Alabama Professional Geologist Licensing Act provides the Board with the ability to grant licensure by comity or reciprocity if the applicant meets all requirements of the Act. This includes the granting of licensure to applicants that were grandfathered in the State in which the applicant received their original license. The Board seeks to secure similar considerations for our

licensees applying for registration in other states.

Agreements with other states are valuable to Alabama license holders who were licensed by grandfather provision of the Alabama Professional Geologists Licensing Act. Many of the current Alabama licensees were licensed by the grandfather provision, and in many cases, ASBOG, (the National Association for State Boards of Geology), examinations were not even being administered at their time of graduation and entry into the professional work place. ASBOG was organized in 1991 and began administering exams in October 1992. The original ASBOG charter included 8 states, with Alabama joining in 1995 following passage of the Alabama Licensing Act. Alabama administered our first ASBOG exam in September 1997. Alabama currently has 549 licensees granted by provisions as shown in the table below.

The Grandfather provision of the Alabama Licensing Act expired in May 1997, and all new license

applications will be granted by either examination or comity/reciprocity. The number of grandfathered licensees as well as those eligible for comity/reciprocity based on grandfathered licenses will naturally decline over time as the current pool ages.

Given the high percentage of licenses granted by grandfather provisions, (70%), the Board feels pursuit of comity agreements would be of great benefit to the membership. The Board will focus on securing agreements with the immediate surrounding states, and welcomes suggestions from the licensees regarding pursuit of such agreements. Please contact one of the Board members or Keith Warren, Executive Secretary, with suggestions or comments.

License Method	Number
Grandfather	371
Comity	125
Examination	45

2008 Sunset Review for ABLPG

The Examiners of Public Accounts conducted a sunset audit of the Board's records for the Board to appear before the Sunset Committee in June 2008. There were several findings in the audit report but nothing extremely deficient. There are several new laws that impact all agencies, one being the new Alabama Open Meetings Act and the second being SMART Budgeting through the Department of Finance. As with new laws, there are always different interpretations which lead to misinformation and misguidance. However, the deficiencies regarding these two new laws have been corrected and should not be a finding(s) in the future. Another finding addressed two fees in the statute that were to be set by administrative rule. The

Board has not collected these fees in the past however; adopted a rule at their August 7, 2008 meeting to set a roster fee of \$25.00 and a certificate replacement fee of \$10.00. The final finding was an annual report not submitted to the State Records Commission in the fiscal year 2006. This report has been filed so this finding should not appear again. The Board was the first agency to appear before the Sunset Committee this year and was commended on their ability to operate efficiently and sufficiently with its current revenue. The Sunset Legislation will be introduced by the committee during the 2009 Legislative Session that begins in February 2009. Please contact Keith Warren should you have any questions regarding this audit.

2009 ASBOG Annual Meeting in Alabama

Alabama will host the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Annual Meeting in Alabama in 2009. The meeting should be held in Birmingham but all arrangements have not been confirmed. ASBOG provides the examinations for both the fundamentals of geology and the practice of geology for states that require licensure. ASBOG is also active in assisting states with model legislation for states that would like to obtain licensure. The Board is very excited to be hosting this meeting in 2009. There are plans for a field trip in conjunction with ASBOG, the Board and the Alabama Geological Society. We will provide further details in the future as they develop.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the University of Alabama Geology Department. Since 1972, LaMoreaux served as the editor-in-chief of the international journal *Environmental Geology*.

In 1976, LaMoreaux incorporated the Tuscaloosa based P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. (PELA), serving as President (1970-1987), Chairman of the Board (1987-1990), and Senior Hydrogeologist (1991-2008). In 1983, at the request of the University of Alabama, he accepted the position as Director of the Environmental Institute for Waste Management Studies (EIWMS) and continued in the position until 1989. As Director, he obtained finances and developed and managed the EIWMS, bringing together a "think tank" of leading scientists from ten major universities in the USA. This group provided a

series of papers and guidelines that were used as a basis for environmental actions during the early part of the environmental movement in the USA.

LaMoreaux was a prolific writer and authored over 150 technical reports and books throughout his lengthy career. Two recent books included "Exodus: Myth, Legend, History" and "Springs and Bottled Waters of the World".

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Dr. LaMoreaux at PELA from 1980 to 2001 and my wife Judy was his personal secretary for over twenty years. During my stint with PELA, I experienced the delight of spending countless hours with Dr. LaMoreaux in the field; working with him in the office; aiding in preparations for expert testimony; traveling with him; and

simply spending time with him and Bunnie outside the work setting. Dr. LaMoreaux was a professional in every sense of the word and seemed larger than life. He had a passion for his profession and surrounded himself with people who enjoyed hard work and who knew how to get a job done. I feel I owe a large part of my work ethic to the association I was able to share with him and those he surrounded himself with. He will certainly be missed by his friends and many associates.

Phil LaMoreaux is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bunnie, their children, Philip E. LaMoreaux, Jr., Jim LaMoreaux and Karen LaMoreaux Bryan, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Recognition of Service and Oath of Office

During the August 1, 2008 Board meeting, the Board recognized Tom Bruner for his service to the Board with the presentation of a service award. Tom succeeded David Bower's as the Board's Mining Representative in 2005 and served through early 2008. Tom was a passionate force

on the Board and we wish Tom the best as he begins his semi-retirement.

During the August Board meeting, Marsha Andrews accepted her oath of office, filling the position formerly held by Tom Bruner.



Congratulations to our newest PGs!

Charles A. Spiers

Marietta, GA, PG License #1217

Kevin Arnold

Acworth, GA, PG License #1218

Eric A. Blomberg

Tallahassee, FL, PG License #1219

Thomas S. Dunham

Raleigh, NC, PG License #1220

Douglas M. Dusbiber

Moon Township, PA, PG License #1221

Russell Griebel

Norcross, GA, PG License #1222

Jill W. Johnson

Flomaton, AL, PG License #1223

Robert L. Martin

Black Mountain, NC, PG License #1224

Stephanie Park

Auburn, AL, PG License #1225

Jack Strader

Knoxville, TN, PG License #1226

Bradley Steven Tompa

Columbus, GA, PG License #1227

Kristi Barnette

Houston, TX, PG License #1229

Charles D. Markun

Winter Park, FL, PG License #1230

Berkley J. Tracy

Atlanta, GA, PG License #1231

John M. Boggs

Knoxville, TN, PG License #1232

Michael W. Dillon

Birmingham, AL, PG License #1233

Derek Prince

Birmingham, AL, PG License #1234

Congratulations to our newest GIT!

Suzanne E. Evans

Florence, AL, GIT License #1228G

2009 Geology Board Calendar

Note: All meetings are held at the Board office, and begin at 10:00 a.m.

January 15, 2009	Board Meeting	(Thursday – 10:00 a.m.)
March 6, 2009	ASBOG Exam (Deadline for approval is January 9, 2009)	(Friday – 8:00 a.m.)
April 16, 2009	Board Meeting	(Thursday – 10:00 a.m.)
July 16, 2009	Board Meeting	(Thursday – 10:00 a.m.)
October 2, 2009	ASBOG Exam (Deadline for approval is August 7, 2009)	(Friday – 8:00 a.m.)
October 15, 2009	Board Meeting	(Thursday – 10:00 a.m.)



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